GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2940
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2012
POVERTY IN RURAL AREAS
Kataria Shri Lal Chand

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the picture of rural India has not changed despite the grand propaganda being made of the benefits of rural reforms during the past two decades and development to the grass root level;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether 10% of the rural population is surviving on less than Rs. 17 per day even today; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken to accelerate optimum daily expenditure?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PLANNING, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND EARTH SCIENCES (DR. ASHWANI KUMAR)

(a) & (b): Based on comparable estimates of poverty, the poverty ratio in rural areas has reduced by 16.3 percentage points from 50.1% in 1993-94 to 33.8% in 2009-10.

(c) : According to provisional results of household consumer expenditure survey of NSS 68th Round (July 2011-June 2012), the poorest 10% of India's rural population has an average Monthly Per Capita Consumer Expenditure with Uniform Reference Period (MPCEURP) is Rs. 503.49 which implies per day average expenditure of Rs. 16.78.

(d): Further, Government is implementing a number of poverty alleviation programmes in the country to increase the income levels of the rural poor. The major schemes and programmes in operation in the country are: (i) Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), which provides a legal guarantee of at least 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to rural household, whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work; and (ii) Swaranjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY), a holistic programme covering all aspects of self- employment. Besides, other programmes like Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY), National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Mid-Day Meal (MDM) Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), Total Sanitation Campaign (now renamed as Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan) etc. are also in place for the benefit of rural people in the country. As a result of the implementation of the various policy initiatives of the Government including those referred to above, the harsh edges of absolute poverty have declined over the years and a large number of people have been lifted above the poverty line.